Opening of Post Offices in Bihar

4021. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals/representations received from Nalanda, East Champaran and Darbhanga di. tricts for opening post offices;

(b) whether any proposals/representations for opening post office at Machhaldiha under Noorsarai block and Singhwara block of Darbhanga districts have also been received by the Government; and

(d if so, the time by which the post offices are likely to be sanctioned in the said villages?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 13 (thirteen) proposals/ representations for opening of Post Offices in Nalanda District, 20 proposals in East Champaran District and 16 (sixteen) in Darbhanga District have been received.

(b) Yes Sir, the proposals for opening of Post Office at Machhaldiha Village under Noorsarai Block and Saraiya and Katesa in Singhwara Block of Darbhanga District have been received.

(c) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources.

Running of Long Distance Trains

4022. SHRI RAMSAJEEVAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether long distance trains from Sitapur-Gonda-Delhi etc. have been introduced after converting the metre gauge railway line of Sitapur-Budhval into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the expansion of the Sitapur Cantonment railway station has not been made for accommodating all the trains;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether no shade has been constructed on the platform for the passengers and regular coach attendant and conductor have not been provided for the trains;

(f) if so the reasons therefor;

(g) whether there are many irregularities such as non-availability of sufficient railway staff, security arrangements in the trains and no proper arrangement of sanitation; and

(h) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 4047/4048 Delhi-Gonda Express and 5209/5210 Barauni-Amritsar Jansewa Express are being run on the converted route.

(c) and (d). Sitapur Cantonment is at present provided with one platform which is adequate for the present volume of traffic.

(e) to (h). Platform shed measuring 21 Sq. mts. is provided. In addition a waiting hall is also available for the waiting passengers.

The reserved coaches of 4047/4048 Delhi-Gonda Express and 5209/5210 Barauni-Amritsar Express are being manned by the staff regularly. Making of Security arrangements in the trains is the responsibility of the State Govts. concerned which they discharge through their GRP (Govt. Railway Police). Close liaison is being maintained with the GRP to provide adequate security.

Parcel Room

4023. SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install modern (digital) scale for weighing in Parcel Room at each railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Provision of digital weighing scales will be a part of the computerisation of parcel office workings wherever necessary.

Employment Exchanges in Rural Areas

4024. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish new Employment Exchanges in the rural areas during 1997; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The decision to set up new Employment Exchanges has to be taken by the respective State/UT Government under whose administrative control the Employment Exchanges operate. The Central Government would support initiatives taken by the State/UT Governments on the matter.